



TIME FOR \$10.10: THE FAIR MINIMUM WAGE ACT OF 2013

It has been four years since minimum wage workers received a pay raise. Since then, the federal minimum wage has lost value. It has not kept up with the cost of living or workers' increased productivity. Income inequality is on the rise. Record-breaking corporate profits have not trickled down to increased wages. Working families on the minimum wage must rely on government assistance to make ends meet. In no state can a full-time minimum wage worker afford rent for a two-bedroom apartment.

This is not right. It is not sustainable for working families or our nation's economy. It's time to raise the minimum wage again. **It's time for \$10.10.**

The **Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2013** will:

- Increase the minimum wage over three years from \$7.25/hour to \$10.10/ hour
- Index future annual increases to inflation thereafter.
- Raise the tipped minimum wage from \$2.13/hour to \$7.07/hour.

The minimum wage is about valuing and respecting work. No one who works hard and plays by the rules should live in poverty. Raising the minimum wage helps families make ends meet.

The real value of the minimum wage is at historic lows. Today, 40 percent of American workers make less than the minimum wage was worth in 1968. That's nearly a quarter of all workers.

A \$10.10 minimum wage will give tens of millions of American workers a pay raise. With this increase, we can expect 30 million Americans to see their pay increase. Those workers care for 17.6 million children.

Workers who will get a pay raise are those that need it the most. Low-wage workers benefiting from an increase in the minimum wage are more likely to **work full time** (55%), be a **woman** (56%), and **20 years old or older** (88%).

This minimum wage increase is expected to increase GDP by \$33 billion. A Fiscal Policy Institute study found that states with a higher minimum wage have "consistently better" economic indicators than in other states. By increasing the minimum wage, workers have more money to spend. Increased consumer spending equals more jobs. Some economists estimate the wage increase and its effects will result in nearly 300,000 new jobs.

Workers who rely on tips deserve the first increase in their minimum wage since 1991. Women make up two-thirds of all tipped workers in America. A recent study shows that states with a higher tipped-wage rate have a 43 percent lower poverty rate than those states that follow the federal rate of \$2.13.

Indexing minimum wage increases to inflation will take partisan politics out of future increases. Purchasing power for minimum wage workers shouldn't diminish just because future increases are held hostage by partisan politics and powerful special interests.